

Local Watershed Plans

Puget Sound Management Plan Goal

- All watersheds within the Puget Sound basin counties shall implement local watershed plans that result in reduction and prevention of nonpoint pollution to Puget Sound.

Strategies for Achieving Goal

- Provide technical and financial assistance and incentives for local communities and governments both to support development of new watershed plans and to support the implementation of completed watershed plans.

Background and Trends

Watershed protection involves the entire community in reducing sources of nonpoint pollution. Cities and counties—along with their federal, tribal and state partners, residents, businesses and others—develop and implement watershed plans that identify steps to manage the cumulative effects of nonpoint pollution and habitat destruction. Sources of nonpoint pollution include failing on-site sewage systems, runoff from poorly managed agricultural and forest lands, pollutants in urban runoff, and untreated sewage from boats and marinas.

Rapid growth and development in the Puget Sound basin have greatly increased the severity of nonpoint pollution problems. The *Puget Sound Water Quality Management Plan* and a supporting state regulation (Chapter 400-12 WAC) defined a process for watershed planning in Puget Sound. Local watershed plans address nonpoint sources of pollution and habitat restoration and protection. To date, 36 watershed plans have been adopted

and are being implemented. Seven more are in various stages of planning or adoption.

Several new watershed initiatives are active in the Puget Sound basin. The 1998 Salmon Recovery Act and the Watershed Planning Act address water quantity and quality, habitat protection and restoration. The state salmon recovery plan identifies nonpoint pollution as a primary cause of impaired salmon habitat. It recognizes activities already underway as part of the state and Puget Sound nonpoint source control programs.

The Watershed Planning Act provides a framework to identify and correct water quantity, water quality and aquatic habitat problems within large watersheds. It requires that local watershed plans be developed to manage these issues.

The responsibilities of state agencies involved in watershed planning are defined through a memorandum of understanding. Tribal, state and local governments cooperate to implement the Watershed Planning Act and Salmon Recovery Act. State interagency leads coordinate policy, financial, technical and monitoring assistance to local planning efforts. Coordination includes consideration of watershed planning and implementation under Chapter 400-12 WAC.

The state also prepares water cleanup plans that set total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) for pollutants to meet state standards. During the next several years, the Department of Ecology will work with local governments and others to prepare cleanup plans for many water bodies.

Highlights of 2001-2003 Actions

- Ecology will coordinate implementation of *Washington's Water Quality Management Plan to Control Nonpoint Source Pollution* and implement elements assigned to Ecology.
- The Department of Agriculture will assist local planning groups to develop and implement watershed action plans.

2001-2003 Budget for State Actions

Total Provided Funding	\$73,000
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		See page 9 for key.					
STATE AGENCY ACTIONS	OUTCOMES	Pri-ori-ty	Non-point	Sal-mon	Budget Code	PS Plan Element	Action ID
CONSERVATION COMMISSION							
Continue to provide grants to the 12 conservation districts in Puget Sound to implement the Puget Sound management and work plans in cooperation with the Action Team support staff.	Grants will fund conservation district projects and programs designed to address many priorities of the Puget Sound work plan.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	CC-01	WP-5	100
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE							
Assist local planning groups to develop and implement watershed action plans.	Assistance on the proper use, storage and transportation of pesticides and fertilizers will be provided as requested. Watershed plans will be reviewed when requested by local governments. Actions required of the Department of Agriculture will be carried out, as funding and authority allow.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	DOA-01	WP-4	101
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY							
Coordinate the implementation of "Washington's Water Quality Management Plan to Control Nonpoint Source Pollution." Implement specific elements assigned to Ecology in the implementation strategy. Participate on and coordinate the State Agency Nonpoint Pollution Committee. Provide technical and financial assistance to local and tribal governments on effective programs to control nonpoint sources of pollution. Provide compliance and enforcement support as appropriate.	Specific actions in the Nonpoint Plan will be implemented. Nonpoint programs will be coordinated across agencies. Local governments will implement effective nonpoint source control programs. Work with tribes will be coordinated. Local watershed plans will be implemented. Contamination of state waters from nonpoint sources will be reduced.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	DOE-02	WP-0	102
Provide watershed assessments and related information about watersheds, technical assistance and hydrological information, develop a template to streamline the watershed approval process for local watershed plans, and initiate a blue ribbon commission to develop funding recommendations. (Budget enhancement with no Puget Sound proviso; Ecology will report on progress.)	Local planning groups and citizens will increase their capacity of to understand and manage the complexities of their watersheds. This will result in an improved process for approving watershed plans and greater opportunities for funding to both conduct needed planning and to implement plan provisions.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	DOE-03	WP-6	103
PUGET SOUND WATER QUALITY ACTION TEAM							
Participate in the State Agency Nonpoint Workgroup and implement actions assigned.	Nonpoint source pollution reduction efforts will be better coordinated and more effective.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PSAT-04	WP-0	104

		See page 9 for key.				
LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACTIONS	OUTCOMES	Pri-ori-tv	Non-point	Sal-mon	PS Plan Element	Action ID

SOUNDWIDE

THE PUGET SOUND ACTION TEAM RECOMMENDS THAT:

All local jurisdictions should complete ongoing Chapter 400-12 WAC (the Nonpoint Rule) watershed planning and implement priority actions of completed watershed action plans. Local jurisdictions should incorporate their Chapter 400-12 WAC planning into new watershed management efforts that address water and salmon.	Local watershed action plans will be completed and incorporated into new watershed management efforts. Priority actions will be implemented.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	WP-4	105
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